

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 28, 2008, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, Paul Silva, William M. O'Dell, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Mary Cerullo, Executive Director of Literacy K-12, Elementary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; Leslie A. Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Accolades

Six of our Mt. Hope High School Band students auditioned and were selected to perform in the Southern New England Honors Band Festival at URI on January 18 and 19. These students had the honor to work and perform with Conductor/Composer Mark Camphouse.

We congratulate:

Ashley Barboza

Rebecca Copeland

Stephanie Coyle

Carolyn Halaburda

Brian Medeiros

Chelsea Verria

All-State – Football

Coach Ron Silva

Mitchell Raiola – 1st Team All-Division II-A

Michael Borges - 1st Team All-Division II-A

Andrew Donato - 1st Team All-Division II-A

Eric Cardoza - 1st Team All-Division II-A

Thomas Santolupo – 1st Team All-Division II-A

Albenzio DiMezza – 2nd Team All-Division II-A

A.J. Cabral – 2nd Team All-Division II-A

James Olson – 2nd Team All-Division II-A

Robert Smith – 2nd Team All-Division II-A

Kenneth Murgu – 3rd Team All-Division II-A

Benjamin Boyle – 3rd Team All-Division II-A

The 15th Annual National Geographic Geography Bee was held at Kickemuit Middle School in December. The program began with classroom competition that produced 25 champions. Classroom champions then competed in the school bee and after ten rounds of questioning two finalists remained. The Champion will compete in the State Geography Bee.

**Congratulations to: First runner-up-- Sydney Beck
Geography Bee Champion-- Byron Thibaudeau**

Mt. Hope High School recently received an extremely prestigious nomination. We wish to congratulate Carol Schlink and the Mt. Hope Theater students, who have been nominated to represent the United States at the 2009 American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) in Edinburgh, Scotland. This nomination is an honor that already recognizes the superiority of the program. AHSTF is a collaboration of the finest American high school drama programs, showcasing the nation's best at the world's largest performing arts festival. Top high school programs are identified based on their most recent bodies of work, awards, community involvement, philosophies and recommendations. If selected to be a part of the 2009 AHSTF contingent, Carol Schlink and her students will participate in a two-week adventure in August 2009, including two days in London, a train trip up Britain's coast, and the opportunity to perform at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:16 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:16 PM for discussion of two issues regarding BWEA contract negotiations. Mr. Brule seconded. Mr. Estrella recused himself from BWEA contract discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 7:48 PM

The Committee received legal advice from the Solicitor and discussed BWEA negotiations. No action was taken.

In deference to the public in attendance, Mr. Estrella took the next agenda item out of order.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S2008-02: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Colt Andrews Elementary Transition Plan as presented. Mrs. McBride and Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded.

MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to table the vote on this plan tonight to the next meeting, and schedule a workshop for community discussion and input. Mrs. Lynch seconded.

Comments and Vote --

Mr. Silva: We owe it to the public and to the kids this plan affects; votes yes to table.

Mrs. Lynch: We told parents they could have input and we have yet to give them the opportunity to ask questions; votes to table.

Mrs. Campbell: This plan started back in September, there was discussion, Dr. Mara prepared a second plan and this plan seems to be a culmination of a lot of input over the past six to eight months; votes no.

Mr. Saviano: This revised plan is not what he hoped for but he feels it is the best we can do at this time; Dr. Mara can continue to tweak the plan with recommendations from the parents; everyone cannot possibly win on this because our fiscal satiation is not good; votes to table.

Mrs. McBride: Votes no.

Mr. O'Dell: Votes no.

Mr. Brule: Votes no.

Mr. Dugan: We promised the parents one more opportunity to discuss issues; votes to table.

Mr. Estrella: Votes no.

Motion to table fails by a vote of 4 to 5 with Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. McBride, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Brule and Mr. Estrella voting no.

Dr. Mara presented his Elementary Transition Plan for 2008-2009:

- 1. Colt Andrews - 3 tracks**
- 2. Hugh Cole - 4 tracks**
- 3. 10 Common expectations for all district elementary schools:**

- 1) School Gathering/Morning Meeting/Assembly**
- 2) Integrated Technology**
- 3) Empowerment of students: Boards and Student Government**
- 4) Applied Learning focus**
- 5) Higher Order Thinking Skills**
- 6) Integrated inquiry/performance based instructional models**
- 7) Parent Community Relations**
- 8) Common professional development for all elementary district staff**
- 9) Character development**
- 10) Promotion of arts integration across the curriculum and grade levels.**

4. School Population Configuration 2008-2009

Bristol

Colt Andrews School

- All Byfield neighborhood students**
- All current Reynolds students grades K-4**
- All Colt Andrews Kindergarten students will reside in Bristol**

**Guiteras and Rockwell Schools will remain neighborhood schools.
Some adjustment will be made in the district lines.**

Warren

Hugh Cole School

- All new Warren Kindergarten students, and present K-4 students currently enrolled will attend Hugh Cole**

Suggested Professional Development for the District

- **M.I.**
- **Brain Research**
- **Integration**
- **Higher Order thinking**
- **Renzulli model**
- **Student Empowerment**
- **Technology**
- **All district initiatives**

Dr. Mara commented that based on the fact that the Committee voted to close both the Byfield and Reynolds buildings, and voted not to keep Reynolds open for one more year, the intent of the plan is to move forward with consideration for families and allow children to stay together in a new, yet academically similar environment. Dr. Mara is promoting the best education possible for all the children in the Bristol Warren District; the components of the Arts Magnet Program are good for all the children. It appears we can accommodate the siblings of the Bristol students except for five. We are trying to look forward and move on.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Lynch: As a former Reynolds parent and PTO President, she apologized to the Reynolds students, teachers and parents. She feels they were sold a bill of goods and misled; it turns out that Phase I was the first step in the elimination of the Arts Magnet Program, which has produced the highest test scores in the District since its

inception. She apologized for helping to lead the charge down a road that shut the families out of their own program.

Amy Parker – parent of two Byfield students: Feels the schools were not equal; it shouldn't matter where you live, each school should give all children the same opportunities; eventually the kids will all be together; she is excited because this plan will benefit all the kids in Bristol and Warren.

Susan Rancourt: Apologized for her language that was published in the newspaper; although she feels the Superintendent has done good things for the District, this plan is not the best we can come up with, but it is a good start. She blames the School Committee who voted the original plan down, bumbled the whole process and misled and lied to the parents. The Reynolds parents' passion for their school has been misconstrued; they all want what is best for their kids and do not feel their kids are better than any others. They were given assurances that the Arts Magnet Program would continue, no students would be forced out, a task force would be created; there are glaring flaws in the plan; by proposing these expectations the choice is taken out of the equation; the original model was sacrificed without being able to build on the good of it. This change is not for the better, parents were never afforded the chance to discuss it and she believes a better job can be done.

Lynn Wainwright: No one can dispute that the Reynolds Arts Magnet

Program provides a wonderful learning environment; she has seen the passion and commitment of the teachers at Reynolds and she asked if all the teachers will embrace these 10 common expectations. Mrs. Wainwright expressed frustration that we are not spending time in the elementary schools for students who exceed expectations; she sees talented students lose interest in school; recent reports suggest that boys and girls learn differently. With this plan Byfield students are making out. As a girl scout leader she hears comments from students who were unsuccessful in the Arts Magnet lottery feeling they are in an inferior program. She feels that if we all work together and think as visionaries, we will continue to move forward.

Joseph DePasquale: Asked that his comments influence the Committee's decision to vote against the plan; he feels a better plan can be worked out and is disappointed the Workshop was cancelled. Mr. DePasquale thinks Mrs. Campbell has a closed mind and is unable to listen; due to an unfortunate snow storm, a decision is being made that will affect his children for a long time; unfortunately some decisions are made for financial reasons; the District will be asking for money from the Towns and yet will be cutting programs. He asked the Committee to vote against the plan.

Arnold Robinson, a Reynolds parent and a community planner: Genuine community involvement is exciting. Only a few parents, not the parents at large, saw the plans; the opportunity for back and forth discussion was lost when the workshop was cancelled. Many

decisions have been rushed; we don't have to be pitted against each other; if a vote is taken tonight, we will proceed as two separate communities.

Kara Cromwell, Byfield parent: She thanked the Committee for their time; feels Arnold Robinson is right that it is good to have debate, however, she felt that took place; she found Dr. Mara's and Mrs. McGee's doors open to parents to get questions answered; she feels positive about this plan; it is good for all children to be on the same page and for everyone to come together and move along to building a new community.

Nina Murphy, Reynolds parent: Feels many voices have been left out of the process and this could have been handled so much differently. She and her husband, as supporters of public education, think this program that has been referred to as a jewel should be available to everyone and we should work toward all our schools being referred to as jewels. Mrs. Murphy is surprised there has not been a law suit about arts magnet programs not being offered at all schools. Change is hard; Colt Andrews will not be like Reynolds, which is not necessarily bad but could be exciting. They are looking forward to working with Mrs. McGee and a bright new community.

School Committee comments and vote on plan:

Mr. Estrella: Will vote in favor of the plan, which is well-thought out, encompasses the issues to be addressed and ensures every child is

special and will have a safe and healthy environment; Mr. Mello laid the groundwork for Arts Magnet which was promised as a seed program. By September 2008 we will have gone from 15 to 9 buildings and this coming year will be the worst budget year we have ever seen; there will not be anymore bond projects for the next 15 to 16 years, the birth rate is dropping and we have about 10 years before we decrease our debt service level; our budget is not going to give us private school funding; he asked each Committee member to support this plan.

Mr. Saviano: One of the reasons Reynolds has been so successful is because there is not the variety of students there as is at the other schools, such as ESL students, challenged students; it does not give us the broad perspective of what our system really is; we have to act with fiscal responsibility and we must embrace every child; he is in favor of the plan.

Mrs. Campbell:

“I agree that the process has been pretty messy and a little sloppy. I have my theories about why, but they’re irrelevant. That said, we’re where we are and need to make a decision and move forward.

Since I first considered running for my position on the school committee, I have felt that the School Committee and the Administration needed to be thinking of ways to expand the successful programs and methodologies that are part of the Arts

Magnet program to the other elementary schools in the district. I did promise the PTO and in my view, I am fulfilling my promise.

It never seemed fair to me that one group of students was singled out to be the beneficiaries of a program that has proven to improve academic achievement, boost self-esteem and self-confidence, and teach problem-solving skills that can be applied to all facets of living and learning.

When Mr. Silva mentioned at a School Committee meeting several months ago, when we first started this process, that the majority of students who hold leadership positions in the high school clubs, teams, and student body, came out of the Reynolds School, my first reaction was that we should be giving ALL our students the opportunity to acquire those attributes that these high school students developed at Reynolds.

Today, FINALLY, I am being asked to vote on a recommendation by the Superintendent, that will do just that.

I am VERY pleased to see that ALL Bristol and Warren elementary students will NOW have the opportunity to:

- Develop the confidence needed to be community leaders through a Student Government program.**
- Learn problem solving, critical reflection and perseverance needed to face new ideas and to grow into lifelong learners.**

- **Acquire technology skills that will help them to maneuver their way through the world of the future.**
- **Be a part of a parent-teacher community that will be empowering to all and will demonstrate to the students that they live in a community that values education and that they should value education, too.**

Our high school administrators are working hard to increase the number of students that successfully complete high school and go on to some next level of education. The high school teachers know that for a student who drops out of high school, the problems did not materialize overnight.

There are elementary students today, who for whatever reason, have to be their own “cheerleaders”. Every day, they get themselves out of bed, scrounge in the kitchen for something to eat, and get themselves to school. They rely on their teachers and school community to give them the support and the encouragement they need to keep going, to do their homework, to come to school, and to better themselves. After a while, the struggle can be daunting to a child on his own and the child might take what he sees as the easy way out — get a job, quit school.

I cannot help but feel that the decision that we make tonight will have an impact on those students who might be facing a personal struggle in their efforts to finish their education. Those are the children that need these programs the most. And I’m so glad that Dr. Mara and his

administration are recommending that we provide them to all the elementary schools. Our students won't have to rely on someone to put their names in a hat so that they can get the best education we have to offer. They'll just get it — regardless of where they live and where they go to school. I am VERY HAPPY TO SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION.

I do have one question for Dr. Mara, though. I know that some elementary schools have developed their own identity, culture, and focus in areas other than Art. I know that the Arts Integration is a positive piece of the Reynolds School program that we are looking to expand. I wonder if these schools will be allowed to continue to develop additional areas of focus. For example, I know that the Guiteras School has developed a reputation for being a school that values Health & Wellness. Will our elementary schools be allowed to continue to develop their own personalities; can they continue to develop their own focus?"

Dr. Mara responded that absolutely will continue; school develop according to their teachers and administrators.

Mrs. Campbell will wait to cast her vote.

Mrs. Lynch: Asked if teachers can be required to teach using these 10 components; Dr. Mara replied that we would like teachers to buy in and look at their own professional development but the District controls the required professional development; he is not concerned, our teachers are true professionals and he believes they will step up

to the plate. Mrs. Lynch said her concerns are not so much with the plan but with the logistics; if all programs will be the same, will parents who signed up for the Arts Magnet Program have the legal right to return to their neighborhood school whether there is room or not. Attorney Henneous could see no legal impediments to the plan or how it is implemented; each request will be dealt with on an individual basis and Dr. Mara will make decisions based on the educational needs of the entire District. When parents make requests, the District tries to accommodate when feasible. Mrs. Lynch said that for years we have heard complaints about the Arts Magnet waiting list; the goal was to expand the program; it is clear that the Arts Magnet community is being sacrificed for the greater good. The plan made the Arts Magnet community essentially guests in their own program. She has maintained that this program is not for every child and not all teachers believe in these components; we cannot force the implementation in their classrooms and it is unrealistic to implement all components in every school—it is not fair to the teachers in the program. It is sad that most Committee members have made up their minds; Arts Magnet parents are dedicated and have a right to fight for their program; it is no longer a money issue and there are many ways to preserve the program that were not debated. Tonight's decision will also affect Rockwell and Guiteras. Arts Magnet began the upswing in the District; she does not feel this plan is in the best interest of all the children and it is an easy way out. Mrs. Lynch votes no.

Mrs. McBride: Supports the plan and votes yes.

Mr. Silva: Feels he has not been given an opportunity to ask questions; four times he has asked if the plan is to eliminate Arts Magnet or expand it and he has never gotten an answer. He had to read in the newspaper that the program is being eliminated. No matter what he says, the votes are cast. Mr. Silva commented: This is not about the safety of the children; the safety will be improved; it is about the expansion or elimination of a successful program; the Governor had inquired about this program, and why wasn't he told about the intention to eliminate the program. He commented that Attorney Henneous does not have a crystal ball and this plan gives rise to the potential for litigation. At the program's inception 9 years ago, Rockwell students were told they would lose their seats at Rockwell if the program closes. Throughout this process the public was told they would have input; a focus group is not the same as giving the community a chance to be involved; the opportunity was taken away with the cancellation of the workshop; some of the questions that could have been answered at that workshop are: What's the rush? Did we save money closing the buildings? Will siblings be allowed? It is now apparent what the answer is. Mr. Silva will cast his vote later.

Mr. O'Dell: Will make a motion to amend after the Committee has had a chance to speak.

Mr. Brule: It was the public's choice to have 19th century schools with a 20th century band aid. He believes all schools should be equal; he is upset how Reynolds treated Byfield. Mr. Brule feels we must go with Dr. Mara's recommendation. He was concerned that students who started the program have the opportunity to finish—they are staying. The money is not there and he would rather close two schools and save teachers; even if there is level funding, we cannot afford it; there will be some shocking surprises coming up; we are fortunate not to be in the red, like other communities. We are trying to give the public the best education we can, but it has to be fair and equal all over; "the kids come first". Mr. Brule votes yes.

Mr. Dugan: "I seriously doubt that anyone here tonight would disagree with me when I say the building facilities at Byfield and Reynolds have outlived their usefulness and it was time to move on. The voters concurred and we are in the process of renovating the beautiful and historic Colt School as well as Andrews, along with building an addition to Andrews, bringing them into the 21st century.

Moving two blocks down the street is much more than a physical one, but one that requires a plan to see the two schools integrated as one. The task to see this carried out to fruition was given, as it should be, to our chief educator in the District, Superintendent Dr. Mara and his staff of professionals.

It has been my understanding, after many talks with him, of his goal to take from each of these highly performing schools, those things which have made them both unique and successful and see to it they become an integral part of Colt Andrews. No solution could be found guaranteed to satisfy everyone. I believe this comes the closest.

Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to discuss with parents of both schools their thoughts on this complex issue and have come away with great respect for their dedication and enthusiasm for molding the best possible education for their children.

What I would like to see is a group of parents from both communities establish a new PTO to work toward their common goals. With the talent I have seen, I have no doubt of a successful outcome.

If, as I believe, Dr. Mara's plan is passed here tonight, it will be imperative that all parties put aside any existing rancor and agree to put an end to all divisiveness. We have a very good system and it's only going to get better. What is the fuss?

For these reasons I support the passage of Dr. Mara's proposal notwithstanding the failure of this committee to allow the parents a final "workshop" opportunity to once again ask questions and resolve any issues they might have. In response to Mr. Silva and Mrs. Lynch—destruction or enhancement—only time will tell. Mrs. Murphy spoke most eloquently and I couldn't agree more."

Mr. Dugan votes yes.

Dr. Mara: It is sad that we are looking at programs, this should be a celebration. Moving the program does not blow it up, but enhances it; we have seen what the program can look like. In question is the staffing; we know the program will be arts integrated because Mrs. McGee is dedicated to the program; it will take on a new personality. After viewing the program in Connecticut we know our good program can only get better. Three years ago Administration asked for an expansion of the program and we had to back away. The school will maintain its same special focus.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to extend the meeting time past 10:00 PM. Mr. Brule seconded. Mr. Estrella announced that many of tonight's agenda items will be move to February; there will be two voting meetings in February. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell moved to amend the motion: strike the phrase "as presented" and replace it with "as a living document." Mrs. McBride seconded. Mr. O'Dell feels this change allows for continued input and flexibility and forward movement without delay; curriculum development is the job of the Superintendent.

The motion to amend passed by a vote of 7 to 2 with Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Silva voting no.

The motion to approve Recommendation #S2008-02 as amended

passed by a vote of 7 to 2 with Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Silva voting no.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. McBride requested Superintendent's Recommendation #S2008-01 Personnel, item A. 1. be removed from the consent vote.

Mrs. Campbell requested the report of the Assistant Superintendent be removed from the consent vote.

Mr. Silva motioned to approve the remainder of the consent agenda; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Mr. Silva motioned to seal the minutes to the December 10, 2007 Executive Session. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Estrella deferred the remainder of the agenda items, except the Superintendent's Recommendations, to February 11.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

S2008-01 A-G: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following

applicants to the positions listed below:

1. Iren Griffin Library/Media Specialist – Mt. Hope High

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year only, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a leave of absence vacancy

(LOA – B. Chew)

Funding: Operational Budget (10th step/M+30)

REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT VOTE

2. Rebecca C. Witte Mathematics Intervention Specialist

Effective: January 2, 2008, for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year only, pending receipt of certification

Reason: To fill a vacancy in accordance with and to the extent of grant funding

Funding: Title IIA (6th step)

3. Liza M. Olson Secretary – Pupil Personnel Services Office

Effective: January 2, 2008, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Resignation – S. Sousa)**

Funding: Operational Budget

B. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2007-08 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

COACHES

Sport Position Coach

- 1. Baseball (Boys) Head Coach Elias Garcia ***
- 2. Lacrosse (Boys) Asst. Coach Justin Teixeira**
- 3. Tennis (Boys) Head Coach William Connell**
- 4. Track (Outdoor) Asst. Coach Walter Anthony ***

HEALTHY HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER/GYM AREA SUPERVISOR

- 5. After School Gym Area Supervisor (2nd Quarter) ** Cindy Pires**
- 6. After School Gym Area Supervisor (3rd Quarter) ** Cindy Pires**
- 7. After School Gym Area Supervisor (4th Quarter) ** Cindy Pires**

INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

- 8. Wrestling Coach Kevin Motta ***

INTRAMURAL COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

- 9. Basketball (Co-Ed) Coach Paul Castigliengo**

*** Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**** Funded by Warren Substance Abuse Task Force**

C. CONTINUING ADULT EDUCATION: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individual as an instructor for the 2007-08 Continuing Adult Education Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Address Course

1. Salvatore Capirchio 11 Fountain Avenue, Barrington Microsoft Access

D. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Walter Anthony, Jr. General Subject Matter**
- 2. Richard H. Blouin Mathematics/Guidance Counselor**
- 3. Lee Ann Croteau Elementary/Sp.Ed.**
- 4. John M. Desautel Elementary/MS English/MS Social Studies**
- 5. Jason Ford Physical Education**
- 6. Gabrielle Gimenez General Subject Matter**
- 7. Michael G. Infante General Subject Matter**

- 8. Jennifer L. Lavoie Elementary/Sp.Ed.**
- 9. Daniel P. Lynch Elementary**
- 10. Justin L. Moniz Mathematics**
- 11. Patricia Pimentel Elementary**
- 12. Jessica Quarry Elementary**
- 13. Mary E. Rakoski Pending**
- 14. Mary Salvadore Art**
- 15. Kevin E. Silva General Subject Matter**
- 16. Lindsey Skarpos Elementary**
- 17. Wendy M. Zinno General Subject Matter**

E. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

- 1. Gail Baccelli Major**
- 2. Alicia Eastwood**

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

- 3. Michael W. Hanson**
- 4. Mario M. Lima**
- 5. Robert I. Shaw**

6. Paul E. Slusarski

F. LEAVE OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for an Elementary Special Educator as follows:

1. Erica Peters Special Educator – Hugh Cole

Effective: April 25, 2008, for 6-8 weeks

Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with Article 21, Section L1 of the Master Agreement

G. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations listed below:

1. Stephanie Beitler Child Care Provider

Effective: December 14, 2007

Reason: Personal

2. Steven Bernard After School Gym Area Supervisor

Effective: January 17, 2008

Reason: Personal

3. Cynthia Roe Adult Basic Education Lead Instructor

Effective: February 2008

Reason: Personal

Recommendation #S 2008-03: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of two (2) Bristol families (Family 1: a 5th and a 6th grader; Family 2: a 10th grader) to home school their children for the 2007-2008 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve. Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S 2008-04: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, award the bid for the Kickemuit Middle School parking lot lighting.

Dr. Mara asked to remove this recommendation.

Recommendation #S 2008-05: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised 2007-2008 School Calendar. (Change in date for Mt. Hope High School Graduation)

Mr. Brule motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. Dr. Mara explained that RIDE has relaxed their new mandate to require 180 days for seniors for this year only; the mandate will be enforced starting next year. Mr. O'Dell commented that seniors are down to 171 days minus fun and games week. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Mr. Estrella asked the Committee to set aside the graduation date and Class Awards Night—the Committee represents the community.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Silva motioned to accept; Mr. O'Dell seconded. Mrs. Campbell commented that the amount of profession development in math from grades K – 12 and the implementation of new programs is so exciting and good things are happening as a result. The motion to accept passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 10:07 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 10:07 PM for discussion of a personnel recommendation. Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 10:16 PM

The Committee discussed personnel recommendation A.1.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to table Superintendent's Recommendation #S2008-01, item A.1. to February, in order to obtain

legal advice from District Counsel. Mr. Brule seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:17 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to adjourn at 10:17 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

/c